



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/

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Contact: Karen Szczepanski
517-373-2420

Sen. Garcia applauds passage of citizen-initiated Legal Birth Definition Act

LANSING – State Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell, praised the Senate’s approval today of the citizen-initiated Legal Birth Definition Act and the protections the measure provides for Michigan’s youngest citizens.

“Thousands of Michigan residents have called on us to provide our children with this important protection,” Garcia said. “We owe it to ourselves and our constituents to protect the smallest and most innocent among us from harm.”

The People’s Override was launched in January to put the measure back before the Legislature in a way that would prevent the governor from vetoing it. In just 90 days, more than 460,000 Michigan citizens signed petitions supporting the Legal Birth Definition Act.

The act defines the moment at which a person is considered “born” and therefore eligible for the full protection of the law. Through this definition, partial birth abortions would be banned except in rare cases where the physical health or life of the mother is threatened by delivery.

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats were able to stop the act from taking effect immediately. That means it will be enacted 90 days after sine die - the last legislative session day of the year.

In *Roe v. Wade* and the legal decisions that followed it, the U.S. Supreme Court established that a fully born child is afforded full constitutional rights, and that a child within his or her mother is not a legally protected person. However, no court has ever sought to define the term “unborn” or bar states from defining “born.” The initiative clarifies this ambiguity, establishing a clear line between when pregnancy ends and birth begins.

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**Editor’s note: Audio comments from Sen. Garcia are available on the
Senate Majority Multi-Media Link
<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm>.**